

**Idaho Wolf Management
Progress Report
Weeks of August 16 – August 29, 2008**

Monitoring

Idaho Fish and Game efforts to collar wolves continue in the Bear Valley area, Panhandle, and Salmon. Radio telemetry flights are showing pups beginning to travel with adults and making it harder to catch up to packs for collaring efforts.

The Nez Perce Tribe biologists collared one wolf in a pack east of Bovil and conducted telemetry flights and pup counts in the Lochsa area verifying reproduction in two packs.

Management

From January 1 – August 29, Idaho Fish and Game and the Nez Perce Tribe have documented 102 dead wolves. Of those, 63 were depredation control actions, five illegal kills, 13 legal kills, three natural kills and 17 other. An additional nine wolves were suspected dead – reported road kills not verified, collars on mortality not picked up, etc. Depredations are at record levels this year nearly doubling levels incurred last year at this time.

Control

From August 16 to August 29, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services documented 17 confirmed wolf depredations and four probable wolf depredations on livestock. The federal agents confirmed that wolves killed 18 sheep, one adult cow, six calves and a guard dog and injured another cow, three calves and a guard dog and determined that another seven sheep and one calf were probable wolf depredations. During the reporting period, Wildlife Services killed 10 wolves and captured and released six wolves, one of which was radiocollared. During the same period in 2007, Wildlife Services documented eight confirmed wolf depredations and two probable wolf depredations.

Non-lethal control efforts are ongoing as per the Idaho Wolf Population Management Plan in the area between Leodore and Yellowstone along the boundary with Montana. Radio collars have been placed on wolves in the area that have been implicated in depredations to further knowledge of wolf movement in the area and pursue non-lethal options prior to lethal control. Discussions of and use of non-lethal tools are ongoing with livestock producers to assist them in reducing livestock/wolf problems along this potential corridor.

Additionally, non-lethal efforts continue in a cooperative effort near Ketchum to reduce livestock/wolf conflicts. Four producers, U.S. Forest Service, Wildlife Services, Fish and Game, Blaine County Commission, and Defenders of Wildlife

are experimenting with the use of paid non-lethal personnel (funded by Defenders) who use fladry and penning for sheep at night, and attempt to scare wolves away from sheep during the night. Wolves have been around the sheep on a regular basis but to date only one sheep has been confirmed killed by wolves.

Research

Nothing new to report.

Information and Education

The new Idaho Fish and Game Wolf Web page is up and running. The new Web page includes information on the lawsuit and injunction that caused wolves to be temporarily relisted under the Endangered Species Act. It also has updated information on the new 10j rule under which Fish and Game is acting as the “designated agent” for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and conducting day-to-day wolf management. What the public can and can’t do under the new rules is discussed. You can find the new webpage at:

<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/wildlife/wolves/>

We also would like to remind people that when wolves are in the area, please be aware that they may attack or injure dogs. It often helps to keep dogs in kennels or inside buildings at night and to not let them roam freely when humans are not around. When fresh wolf sign is found, place dogs on restraints and keep supervised. The 10j rule allows individuals to harass or kill a wolf attacking or molesting their livestock and stock animals including pets. If you are having concerns or problems with wolves close to your residence, please inform the Fish and Game Office nearest you.

Please help us manage wolves by reporting wolf sightings on our Fish and Game observation form found at:

http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/apps/wolf_report/

New: FWS – Northern Rocky Mountain Wolf Status (Wyoming, Montana, Idaho): The U.S. Federal District Court in Missoula, Montana, issued a preliminary injunction on Friday, July 18, 2008, that immediately reinstated temporary Endangered Species Act protections for gray wolves in the northern Rocky Mountains pending final resolution of the case. This includes all of Montana, Idaho and Wyoming, the eastern third of Washington and Oregon, and parts of north-central Utah. The Fish and Wildlife Service is evaluating legal options regarding the court’s order and the ongoing litigation over the agency’s delisting of the northern Rocky Mountain wolf population. All wolves in the southern half of Montana, all portions of Idaho south of Interstate 90, and all of Wyoming will be managed under the 2005 and 2008 Endangered Species Act nonessential experimental population 10j regulations. Idaho Fish and Game will

once again act as the designated agent for the Fish and Wildlife Service in implementing day-to-day management of wolves under the MOU between the Secretary of Interior and Governor of Idaho signed January 2006.

Delisting wolves and assuring their proper long-term management is and has been of highest priority for the state of Idaho and the Fish and Game Department. We continue to work along with the Department of Interior, Department of Justice, and other states and interveners toward the eventual delisting of wolves in the Northern Rocky Mountains, and move toward state management under the state Wolf Conservation and Management Plan and the Wolf Population Management Plan. You may hear deputy attorney general Clive Strong discuss the legal situation and what the state is doing at the following link: <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/wildlife/wolves/court/>

You may review past wolf weekly publications on our wolf webpage and links along with all pertinent and updated wolf information and publications at: <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/wildlife/wolves/>